

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE INFORMATION AND REGULATORY ACTIONS SUMMARY

May 2001

TABLE OF CONTENTS

REGULATORY ACTIONS

Final Rules - None finalized in May

Proposed Rules - None proposed in May

OSHA ACTIVITIES

Enforcement of Changes to Needlestick Prevention Rules Begins July 17

OSHA will begin enforcing the new provisions of its bloodborne pathogen standard on July 17, the agency announces. Until that date, the agency will not enforce the January changes to the standard, which require employers to maintain a sharps injury log and involve non-managerial employees in selecting safer medical devices, OSHA says. Enforcement will continue for mandates that employers select safer needle devices as they become available, the agency said, requirements that have been in place since 1992.

Chao Refuses to Commit to Rulemaking, Opposes Two-Year Congressional Deadline

Labor Secretary Elaine Chao told senators May 2 that she has made no commitment to offer an alternative ergonomics standard and suggested the Bush administration would oppose a congressional deadline for the standard.

Chao Defends Worker Protection Budget, Says Carryover from 2001 Will Exceed Cuts

A substantial carryover of unspent funds--about \$1.7 billion from the current fiscal year allows the Bush administration to avoid deep cuts in worker protection programs, Labor Secretary Elaine L. Chao told a Senate appropriations panel May 2.

In her first budget presentation to congressional appropriators, Chao noted that OSHA funding is \$426 million, the same level provided in the current year. However, OSHA and other Labor Department worker protection programs have enjoyed a 36 percent increase since fiscal 1996, she said.

The new administration's approach in worker protection programs will emphasize job safety education and other employer-friendly efforts over what Chao termed "after the fact" enforcement. "I'd like to put increasing emphasis on compliance assistance so we can truly help to protect workers before an accident occurs," Chao told members of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education. However, she assured the subcommittee that she is committed to maintaining enforcement as a "critical part" of the Labor Department's mission.

Action on Process Safety, Confined Spaces Scheduled for November; TB Rule Delayed

The Labor Department plans to take its first formal step in revising its process safety standard for the chemical industry in November, and plans to launch rulemakings on confined spaces in construction and a new health rule for silica, the department said May 14 in its semiannual regulatory agenda.

Meanwhile, several other high-profile rulemakings under way at OSHA seem to be receiving less emphasis. They include:

- Regulations to protect health care workers from tuberculosis,
- The safety program management standard, and
- Indoor air quality.

OSHA plans final action on several regulations by December, including:

- Glycol ethers, which would bring to a close a 14-year process of updating the permissible exposure limit for four types of glycol ethers;
- General health and safety regulations governing walking/working surfaces;
- Personal fall protection systems; and
- Respiratory protection (assigned protection factors).

Other important rulemakings scheduled for action by November include proposed rules to address:

- crystalline silica,
- electric power transmission and distribution,
- permissible exposure limits for carbon disulfide, glutaraldehyde, hydrazine, and trimellitic anhydride, and
- hearing loss prevention in construction, and perchloroethylene.

OSHA Announces Public Forums on Ergonomics

SUMMARY

The Department of Labor is scheduling several public forums around the country to discuss possible approaches to addressing ergonomic hazards in the workplace.

Interested persons may submit written comments in response to the three specific questions raised in this notice, and they are invited to speak on these questions at the public forums.

DATES

Written comments. Written comments must be postmarked by August 3, 2001. If you are submitting documentary evidence that has been previously submitted in the OSHA ergonomics rulemaking docket (Docket S-777), please reference the Exhibit Number rather than providing an additional copy.

Forums

The scheduled forum in the Washington, DC, area is to begin at 9:30 a.m., July 16, 2001, and will run for one and one-half days. The second forum is a one-day forum on July 20, 2001, in Chicago, Illinois and a one-day forum on July 24, 2001, in California. The Federal Register will announce the location of the Washington, DC, area forum and the time and location for the regional forums.

Notice of intention to speak at the forums. To speak at the forums a written intention must be postmarked by June 29, 2001. Facsimile or electronic notices of intention to speak at the forums must be received by June 29, 2001. If possible, please include an e-mail address or fax number in your notice, so we may contact you about scheduling. When submitting a notice of intention to speak, please indicate whether you intend to speak at the forum in Washington, DC, Chicago, Illinois, or California. In addition, if you are requesting more than 10 minutes for your presentation, please indicate the amount of time that you are requesting and the questions you intend to address. The amount of time allotted to each speaker will depend on the number of persons who wish to speak at each location.

ADDRESSES

Written comments and notices of intention to speak at a forum may be submitted by mail, facsimile, or electronic means:

- Mail: Submit three copies of written comments to: OSHA Docket Office, Docket No. S-777A, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room N-2625, Washington, DC 20210, telephone (202) 693-2350.
- Facsimile: If your written comments are 10 pages or fewer, you may fax them to the Docket Office. The OSHA Docket Office fax number is (202) 693-1648.
- Electronic: You may submit comments electronically through OSHA's Homepage at www.osha.gov. Please note that you may not attach materials such as studies or journal articles to your electronic comments. If you wish to include such materials, you must submit three copies to the OSHA Docket Office at the address listed above. When submitting such materials to the OSHA Docket Office, you must clearly identify your electronic comments by name, date, and subject, so that we can attach the materials to your electronic comments.

Notice of intention to speak:

- Mail: You may submit notices of intention to speak at a forum, by mail, to: Ms. Veneta Chatmon, OSHA Office of Public Affairs, Docket No. S-777A, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room N-3647, Washington, DC 20210, telephone: (202) 693-1999.
- Facsimile: You may fax your notice of intention to speak at a forum to Ms. Chatmon at (202) 693-1634.
- Electronic: You also may electronically submit your notice of intention to speak at a forum through OSHA's Homepage at www.osha.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

Bonnie Friedman, OSHA Office of Public Affairs, telephone (202) 693-1999, or visit the OSHA Homepage at www.osha.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

With this notice, the Department announces the beginning of its initiative to create a new and comprehensive approach to ergonomics that is appropriate to the 21st Century workforce. In testimony before Congress, Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao has set forth the following principles that the Department will use to guide its development of this new framework:

- Prevention: The approach should, emphasize the prevention of injuries, before they occur.
- Sound Science: The approach should be based on the best available science and research.
- Incentive Driven: The approach should focus on cooperation between OSHA and employers.
- Flexibility: The approach should take account of the varying capabilities and characteristics of different businesses and workers.
- Feasibility: Future actions must recognize the costs of compliance to small businesses.
- Clarity: Any approach must include short, simple and common sense instructions.

Following the forums, the Department will review the information obtained during this process, along with other information, and develop a comprehensive plan for addressing ergonomics injuries in the workplace. The Secretary intends to identify a course of action in September.

Forum Plans

The forums will consider the three questions listed below.

- Question 1: What is an ergonomics injury? The Department of Labor is interested in establishing an accepted definition that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, employers and their employees can understand and apply.
- Question 2: How can the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, employers and employees determine whether an ergonomics injury was caused by work-related activities or non-work-related activities; and, if the ergonomics injury was caused by a combination of the two, what is the appropriate response?
- Question 3: What are the most useful and cost-effective types of government involvement to address workplace ergonomics injuries (e.g., rulemaking, guidelines, "best practices," publications/conferences, technical assistance, consultations, partnerships or combinations of such approaches)? The agency particularly invites comment on the advantages and disadvantages of each approach or combination of approaches.

CONGRESSIONAL ACTIONS OF INTEREST

JEFFORDS' SWITCH PROPELS KENNEDY TO HELM OF SENATE LABOR PANEL

Sen. James Jeffords' decision to walk away from the Republican Party brings a longtime defender of strong job safety enforcement, Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), to the chairmanship of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. Kennedy chaired the same committee from 1987 to 1994, when the Republicans took control of the Senate.

In another change triggered by Jeffords' defection from the Republican party, Sen. Paul Wellstone (D-Minn.) will chair the Senate panel charged with overseeing the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and other job safety agencies when the Democratic party takes control of the Senate, a spokesman for the committee told BNA May 25.

Third Party Workplace Reviews (Formerly the SAFE Act)

Senator Michael Enzi may reintroduce his legislation creating a program for third party workplace reviews. This legislative concept would allow business to hire outside competent and qualified occupational health and safety professionals to review the workplace for health and safety compliance. Businesses securing a positive rating would receive an incentive.

Senator Enzi has introduced this legislation in each of the past two sessions of Congress. Current legislative strategy on the bill will be to bring the legislation straight to the Senate floor, without hearings or mark-up. The legislation stands a greater

chance of passage with President Bush in the White House. However, there will be considerable opposition to this legislation from the other side of the aisle.

House Committee View -Occupational Safety and Health Outlook

Rep. John Boehner (OH) is Chair of the House Committee that oversees OSHA. Rep. Boehner has indicated that he has a high interest in focusing on health and safety issues this year, but it will only take place after the House has concluded its action on education reform (Rep. Boehner's committee also has jurisdiction over education).

However, this won't stop one of Rep. Boehner's subcommittees from diving headfirst into health and safety. Rep. Charlie Norwood (GA) is Chair of the Workforce Protections Subcommittee and has stated that he would like to see OSHA shift its focus from just enforcing safety and health regulations in the nation's workplaces to helping employers through education and assistance.

Rep. Norwood has also addressed issues such as training and uniformity among OSHA's compliance officers, providing incentives to business to be proactive in improving health and safety, and for OSHA to provide assistance through consultations, advice, and written materials on what it takes to be in compliance.

Breaux Legislation Seeks New Ergo Standard

Sen. John Breaux (D-La.) has introduced S. 598, legislation that would mandate the issuance of a new ergonomic standard within a two-year period. The bill imposes several requirements on OSHA regarding the specifications on any newly promulgated rule, is intended to provide renewed momentum to develop a new ergonomics rule quickly and thoroughly. After attempts to attach the bill to the Senate's bankruptcy reform legislation failed, the bill became a standalone bill.

House Bill 1241; Senate Bill 598 Ergonomics Focus

These two bills would mandate the issuance of an ergonomics standard within a two-year timeframe. Insiders seem to think that the Senate Bill has a good chance of passage and could actually move forward in the Senate sometime this year. Although a consensus may not exist among all Senate members, there seems to be at least a majority of Senators in favor of the bill. Efforts to pass a bill in the House may be more of a challenge.

Senate Bill 803 - "E-Government Act of 2001"

Senator Joseph Lieberman (CT) introduced this legislation to establish a federal chief information officer within the Office of Management and Budget. One purpose of the new position would be to provide better public access to job safety, environmental, and other rulemakings through the Internet.

The officer would coordinate efforts from various federal agencies and improve the visibility of e-government efforts. The officer would also lead regular forums with

representatives from OSHA, EPA and other agencies to promote the best use of the Internet in developing rulemakings.

House Bill 64 - EPA Deputy Administrator for Science and Technology

Rep. Vernon Ehlers (MI) is moving forward with his legislation to create the position of Deputy Administrator for Science and Technology at EPA. This bill, if enacted, would implement recommendations from a National Academies report to increase the science and technology efforts within EPA.

TECHNICAL ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Hazard Communication

OSHA's Hazard Communication rule (29 CFR 1910.1200) has topped the list of most frequently cited standards across all industry sectors for 13 years. Part of the reason is that the standard lists the goals companies need to achieve without citing a specific plan of action. It is extremely important to have a complete written program, as it's likely to be the first item compliance officers will want to review. This written component must describe, in detail, how employers will meet requirements for labels, MSDSs, and employee information and training.

Top 5 HAZCOM Violations: (From Oct. 1, 1995 - Sept. 30, 2000)

1. 1910.1200(g)(5) - Failure to develop and maintain a written program
2. 1910.1200(g)(9) - Lack of employee training
3. 1910.1200(b)(4)(II) - Failure to have an MSDS on file for every hazardous chemical
4. 1910.1200(f)(1)(III) - Improper labeling
5. 1910.1200(g)(2)(II) - Failure to make chemical specific info available on labels and MSDSs

According to OSHA CPL 2-2.38, the standard's compliance directive, employers are not required to maintain records of employee training, and OSHA does not expect every worker to be able to recite all the information about each chemical in the workplace. The written program should provide enough detail about the employer's training agenda to enable compliance officers to determine whether a good-faith effort is being made to train employees.

Training programs need to ensure that:

- Employees are aware that they are exposed to hazardous chemicals
- Employees know how to read and use the labels and MSDS's
- As a consequence of learning this information, employees are following protective measures established by the employer.

Compliance officers will also want to see if:

- Employees know they are exposed to hazardous chemicals and if they know where to obtain substance-specific information on labels and MSDSs.
- A list of the hazardous chemicals exists in each work area or at a central location
- There is an outline of methods the employer will use to inform employees of the hazards of nonroutine tasks
- Employees are informed of hazards associated with chemicals contained in unlabeled pipes in their work areas
- The written program made available to employees stipulates who is responsible for labeling, obtaining and maintaining MSDSs, and training, as well as procedures by which these individuals will conduct these tasks.

HAZCOM Components:

- Training - employees who may be exposed to hazardous chemicals when working must be informed and trained before initial assignments and whenever the hazard changes.
- Task assignment - a person needs to be designated to oversee the initial and ongoing tasks of labeling of in-plant and shipped containers, obtaining and maintaining MSDSs, and training.
- MSDSs - a MSDS, written in English, must be available for each hazardous chemical used.
- Labels - In plant containers of hazardous chemicals must be labeled, tagged or marked with the identity of the material and appropriate hazard warnings
- Chemical Inventory - A list of hazardous chemicals in the workplace needs to be made available. Every chemical identified needs to have an accompanying MSDS.
- Written Program - The written program must describe how the requirements for labels and other forms of warning, MSDSs and employee information and training are going to be met.
- Evaluation/Maintenance - Companies must establish procedures to maintain the current program and evaluate its effectiveness on an ongoing basis.

Routine Maintenance, Cleaning Key to Eliminating Deadly Bacteria

According to CEC Consultants, a Cleveland based company specializing in developing corporate-wide indoor air quality programs, Legionella bacteria can be found in natural or manmade water sources, as well as soil. Once the bacteria is inhaled, it also can cause Pontiac fever, a flu-like illness that generally has a recovery period of two to five days without treatment.

Towers and hot water systems - two fixtures in almost every large building - are natural homes to Legionella bacteria if the systems are not properly maintained. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has published guidelines for voluntary compliance that call for cleaning cooling towers at least every six months and continually treating the systems with chemicals to control the bacteria.

A consultant at CEC said “it’s very unlikely that one would ever get Legionella from drinking contaminated water or skin contact. The disease itself is not contagious; person-to-person contact does not spread the disease. It’s primarily an issue of breathing in droplets from a contaminated source.”

Equipment known to breed, multiply or disseminate Legionella bacteria:

- Cooling towers
- Evaporative and Evaporative Air Coolers
- Showers
- Parts Washers
- Paint Booths
- Architectural Fountains and Waterfalls
- Car Washes

Long term monitoring and enhanced maintenance practices are the only ways to minimize the risk of exposure. In the short term, employers can take the following measures to minimize the threat:

- Wear Personal protective equipment - make sure employees servicing at risk equipment wear dust masks or respirators to minimize the chance of droplet inhalation.
- Consider medical conditions - prioritize which employees work on which assignments those who smoke and those with immune system deficiencies are especially at risk.
- Employ start-up/shutdown procedures - implement start-up/shutdown procedures that parallel American Society of Heating Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers guidelines.

Heat Stress One-On-One

Research conducted by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) shows that work in hot environments produces lower mental alertness and physical performance, and subsequently, more injuries. “An individual’s ability to withstand heat can be reduced by his or her health and physical conditioning, the equipment used, changes in the work environment and even day-to-day variables such as caloric, fat and water intake”, said Kris Bancroft, a safety consultant for the Florida Division of safety. In addition, Bancroft said workers are particularly at risk for heat related disorders when they:

- Take certain medications
- Are obese
- Use alcohol or drugs
- Have certain medical conditions
- Had a heat-induced illness in the past
- Wear personal protective equipment

Heat disorders occur most often among workers who have not been given enough time to adjust to working in heat or in those who have been away from hot environments for an extended period of time. Under normal circumstances, acclimatization can take from five days to two weeks. It is important to note, however, that the rate of acclimatization is a function of the individual's level of physical fitness. Unfit workers take 50% longer to acclimate than those who are in good physical condition. "Even when you're away from the heat for a week, your body has readjusted to cooler temperatures. So, if a person does not rebuild his or her tolerance, the potential for heat-related illness is extremely high. One extra caution to employers - remember that no two employees are the same. When it comes to heat stress, workers should be dealt with as individuals, not as groups", said Tom Civic manager of safety and industrial hygiene for Bethlehem Steel.

- Rather than expose employees to intense heat for extended periods during the course of a job, distribute the workload evenly over the day and incorporate "work-rest cycles" into the workday.
- Schedule employees' work patterns so that the most strenuous jobs are conducted at the coolest times of the day and in some cases cooler parts of the year.
- Postpone nonessential tasks
- Permit only those employees acclimatized to perform the most strenuous tasks
- Provide additional employees
- Rotate employees who work in strenuous jobs
- Allow employees to get out of the heat and more importantly out of the humidity.
- Implement the use of cool rooms throughout a facility to provide a relief from the heat.
- Train first-aid workers to recognize and treat the signs of heat stress, and be sure all employees know who has been trained to provide aid.
- Train supervisors to detect early signs of heat-related illness and permit employees to interrupt their work if they become extremely uncomfortable.
- Select the coolest PPE legally permitted for employees.
- NIOSH recommends workers should drink 5 to 7 ounces of fluid every 15 to 20 minutes in hot conditions and not depend upon thirst.

"The success of an heat-stress prevention program is based strictly on the awareness of its workers. The more information and tools workers have in terms of prevention the more effective they will be at dealing with the heat", said Civic.

Heat Disorders

There are six levels of heat stress; however, it is particularly important to recognize the symptoms early because heat stress does not progress through these six levels.

1. Heat Fatigue

Cause: Lack of acclimation to hot environments

Signs and symptoms: Impaired performance of skilled sensor motor, mental or vigilance jobs

What to do: Remove heat stress before a more serious heat related condition develops.

2. Heat Rashes

Cause: Skin is persistently wetted by unevaporated sweat

Signs and Symptoms: Red papules appear where clothing is restrictive. As sweating increases, these papules give rise to a prickling sensation.

What to do: Heat rashes often disappear when the individual returns to a cool environment; however, some papules may become infected if left untreated.

3. Heat Collapse

Cause: The brain does not receive enough oxygen because blood pools in the extremities, causing the victim to collapse. Heat collapse occurs most often in workers unacclimated to hot environments who simply stand still while working in the heat.

Signs and Symptoms: Fainting

What to do: Recovery from fainting usually is rather quick after a brief period of lying down. Also, moving around, rather than standing still, will usually reduce the possibility of fainting.

4. Heat Cramps

Cause: Performing hard, physical labor in a hot environment may cause an electrolyte imbalance instigated by excess sweating that results from too much or too little salt, as well as lack of water replenishment.

Signs and Symptoms: Painful spasms or tired muscles

What to do: Thirst cannot be relied on as a guide to the need for water. Instead drink water every 15 to 20 minutes in hot environments. Under extreme conditions, such as working for six to eight hours in heavy protective gear drinking commercial carbohydrate-electrolyte replacement liquids is effective in minimizing physiological disturbances during recovery.

5. Heat Exhaustion

Cause: Loss of fluid through sweating when a worker has failed to drink enough fluids or take in enough salt or both.

Signs and Symptoms: Worker still sweats, but experiences headache, nausea, vertigo, extreme weakness, thirst and/or giddiness. The skin is clammy and moist, the complexion is pale or flushed, and the body temperature is normal or slightly higher.

What to do: workers should be removed from the hot environment, given fluid replacement and be encouraged to get adequate rest. Severe cases involving victims who vomit or lose consciousness may require longer treatment under medical supervision.

6. Heat Stroke

Cause: The failure of the body's internal mechanism to regulate its core temperature. Sweating stops and the body can no longer rid itself of excess heat.

Signs and Symptoms: Mental confusion, delirium, loss of consciousness, convulsions or coma; a body temperature of 106 degrees or higher; and hot, dry skin that may be red, mottled or bluish.

What to do: Heat stroke victims will die or suffer permanent injury to the brain and other vital organs unless treated promptly. While awaiting medical help, move the victim to a cool area, soaked the victim with cool water and fan the victim vigorously to increase cooling. Ensure a physician monitors the victim's condition.

Confined Space Monitors

Consider the following items when choosing a gas monitor.

- Make sure the sensors in the instrument you are using are appropriate for the potential contaminants in the confined space. Many instruments offer the ability to change the sensors to match the particular hazard that employee will encounter. These instruments provide you with greater flexibility and value in a variety of applications.

- The monitor must be durable and able to withstand harsh conditions.
- Confined space pre-entry tests require remote sampling of the atmosphere from outside the space. The instrument you choose must have the capability of using a remote sample pump. The pump must have the capability of drawing an adequate sample flow over the distance required to cover the entire space. The pump also should be able to detect and clearly inform you if the sample line is blocked, thereby preventing gas flow to the instrument and its sensors. Be certain that the sample tube material is of high quality and is compatible with vapors that you might expect to encounter. Never use sample tubing made of materials containing silicone rubber compounds. The silicone vapors off gas and poison the sensors leaving the instrument unable to detect explosive gases.
- The gas monitor should be able to operate from a variety of power sources. Rechargeable batteries are generally most suitable for portable monitoring instruments because the combustible-gas sensors used in the detectors consume large amounts of battery power. The ability to replace the rechargeable battery pack with disposable alkaline or lithium battery cells will extend the confined space operations when instrument requires run times beyond the capacity of rechargeable batteries.
- Know the detection limits of the instrument. There are clear differences in the measuring ranges of sensors in various instruments. As a rule of thumb, the monitor should be capable of measuring concentrations approaching the IDLH (immediately dangerous to life or health) level of the target gas. All catalytic, combustible-gas sensors require a minimum background oxygen concentration present to respond accurately. Make sure that you are aware of what the level is and that the instrument you choose is capable of being used with a dilution apparatus to ensure the accuracy of the combustible detector when sampling from inert or oxygen-deficient atmospheres.
- Beware of claims that instruments do not need to be tested or calibrated on a regular basis. The only way to ensure that a gas monitor will respond to gas is to test and verify its operation with known concentrations of the target gases prior to each use. Docking systems or service programs are available that will perform these tasks on your instruments automatically and document the results.

For further information pertaining to this article, refer to <http://www.occupationalhazards.com/>

INTERNET NEWS

Compliance Updates

Tempe, Ariz.-based Environmental Support Solutions (www.ENVIRON.com) has introduced a new, subscription-based news service for professionals in the environmental and facilities management industry. Compliance News Service offers four separate news digests in the areas of refrigerant, waste, IAQ, and health and safety management. Designed to facilitate compliance efforts, CNS is delivered regularly via e-mail and provides in-depth articles, recent regulatory enforcement actions, tech tips, federal regulatory updates, glossaries, and compliance checklists.

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE PROFESSIONAL NEWS

AIHA New Government Affairs Website Preparation Underway

AIHA staff has been working hard on a new website for AIHA members. As part of this effort, the government affairs section of the web page will have a very new look. Included in the new “members only” section will be the availability of every state law that has been enacted on title protection and professional recognition. We also hope to have a summary of all federal legislative issues being followed and the opportunity for all AIHA members to have immediate contact with their Member of Congress. Watch for it!

International Efforts Pay Off

AIHA and the industrial hygiene profession found success on an issue undertaken in Malaysia. Last May, AIHA received a request to become involved in a Malaysian Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) regulation pertaining to chemical health risk assessments. The proposal specified qualifications for “Chemical Health Risk” assessors.

AIHA contacted DOSH and requested that DOSH expand the qualifications and training requirements to include automatic acceptance for a Certified Industrial Hygienist.

Not only did DOSH accept AIHA’s recommendations, they also plan to receive AIHA laboratory accreditation. When completed, this may be the first IH accredited laboratory in the region.

JCAHO's Board Approves New Patient Safety Standards

The JCAHO has approved new standards to promote patient safety and curb medical errors in hospitals. JCAHO's board of commissioners approved the standards, which require ongoing patient safety programs be established by organizations that are accredited under the Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Hospitals. The standards address four areas:

- leadership,
- improving organizational performance,
- management of information, and
- other functions. Included are new requirements for proactive assessment of high-risk activities related to patient safety and for hospitals to aggregate data that is related to patient safety and effectively communicate safety issues among all caregivers, according to JCAHO.

ACGIH Continues to Fight Lawsuits

The ACGIH® is continuing its fight against three separate and unrelated lawsuits concerning the Chemical Substances TLVs®. All three lawsuits were filed in December of last year against the TLVs, which the organization describes as "the pre-eminent occupational exposure values in the world." The ACGIH has recently managed to halt attempts by one of the plaintiffs to impose a temporary restraining order that would have precluded publication of the 2001 TLVs and BEIs®. The organization has sent out its Annual Report of the TLV Committee, which was distributed with the Winter issue of *Today*. The 2001 TLVs® and BEIs® were shipped to members and customers without delay. The ACGIH has been working with its general counsel in Washington, D.C., law firms in Atlanta and Macon, Ga., and Texas firms in order to defend itself against the attacks on the credibility of its TLVs.

National Safety Council, Chapter Set Annual Safety Observance

The National Safety Council and its chapters across the country have designated June 2001 as National Safety Month, an annual observance aimed at increasing public awareness of the dangers from environmental hazards Americans face each day on the highways, in homes and communities as well as in the workplace. According to the NSC's publication *Injury Facts 2000*, unintentional injury deaths totaled 96,000 in 1999. Motor vehicles crashes caused 41,300 deaths, 52,900 people died from unintentional injuries in the home and in public places, and 5100 died in the workplace. For more information, contact the council's web site at <http://www.nsc.org/nsm.htm>.

Hygienists Told to "Embrace Change" What's in the Crystal Ball ?

"I'm telling organizations that if by 2004 they don't have the internal capacity to reinvent themselves every 12 to 18 months, they will not be in business." This was the bracing message delivered yesterday (June 4) at the opening session of the American

Industrial Hygiene Conference & Exposition by futurist Edward Barlow, Jr., president of the consulting firm Creating the Future, Inc. "Embracing Change" is the theme of this year's conference, held in New Orleans June 2-7.

Barlow believes the boundaries of industrial hygiene will continue to expand, encompassing safety, the environment and "social accountability. " Social accountability includes such things as discrimination, working hours and compensation, community relations, discrimination, as well as the traditional fields of environmental, health and safety performance.

Barlow said that in the future companies would have to complete social accountability audits in addition to traditional financial audits. He encouraged industrial hygienists (IHs) to seize this new opportunity, by expanding the boundaries of what they know, learn, and think.

"Eighty percent of what you need to know to make your business successful in the 21st century is outside your industry and field of expertise," he said. In addition, 20 percent of what we know will be obsolete in one year, he contended. Barlow then gave his audience some print and Web site resources to help them keep abreast of change, such as <http://www.ceoexpress.com/>.

Barlow emphasized the challenges and opportunities presented by a rapidly changing workforce and work environment. In particular, he stressed the importance of learning to adapt to a multicultural workforce in the U.S. and the enormous international opportunities presented by global trade.

"Global employment opportunities will be absolutely unbelievable," Barlow predicted. He also told his audience of the importance of learning foreign languages, because fifteen percent of the workers needed in the U.S. in the near future will be non-English speaking foreigners. Barlow foresees continued rapid growth of the U.S. Latino community, especially in manufacturing. By 2050, 25 percent of the nation will be Latino, he predicted, and referred to <http://www.diversityinc.com/> as a resource for this issue.

The increasing pace of change can be stressful, and Barlow pointed to recent data linking stress to higher health care costs, low productivity and turnover. A key future training need, he said, will be training people in emotional intelligence in order to manage and reduce stress in the workplace.

While the future offers tremendous opportunities to those who seize them, Barlow concluded by warning of the perils those who ignore change will face.

"Some people make things happen, others let them happen, and others ask, 'What the hell happened?'"

CSP Ergonomics Specialty Examination Accredited by NCAA

The National Commission for Certifying Agencies recently accredited the CSP Ergonomics Specialty Examination put forward by the Board of Certified Professionals. The exam consists of the following domains, or areas of knowledge: work physiology, ergonomics management issues, job related risk factors, human error, design/redesign issues, and analytical methods. For more information, visit <http://www.bcsp.org/Specialty>.

BCSP Announces New Officers for 2001

The Board of Certified Safety Professionals announced its new officers for 2001: president Jan Simon Clark, CSP, CIH; vice president Stewart C. Burkhammer, CSP, P.E. and secretary - treasurer David A. Herbert, CSP.

PUBLICATIONS

Promoting Safe Work for Young Workers

Students will soon be leaving classrooms for summer or permanent employment. Although working is a sign of a healthy, productive life, it is not without hazards. Many young workers die or are seriously injured each year at work. You may wish to read the NIOSH guide, "*Promoting Safe Work for Young Workers*," which describes how schools can be involved in a community-based approach to preventing young worker injuries. The brochure, poster, and guide are available by calling us at 1-800-35-NIOSH. The brochure and the guide are also available on the NIOSH homepage.

CDC Publishes Chemical Exposure Report

The Center for Disease Control released the first National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals. Based on scientific advances in biomonitoring that allow CDC to measure chemicals in blood and urine samples, the new report provides data on actual levels of chemicals in humans.

The first report initially measures the exposure of the US population to 27 environmental chemicals. The report provides results from a 1999 survey of exposure to metals, pesticide metabolites, phthalate metabolites and cotinine.

CDC plans to expand the report over the next few years to provide information about 100 chemicals. Future reports also will include exposure data from studies of people with localized or point-source exposures. For more information, contact CDC at (866) 670-6052; <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/dls/report>.

The American Society of Safety Engineers

The American Society of Safety Engineers has published the fourth edition of the "Illustrated Guide to Electrical Safety." To order the book visit ASSE's web site at <http://www.asse.org/> and order #4383.

Laser Standard Released

The Laser Institute of America has announced the release of ANSI Z136.5 (2000), American National Standard for Safe Use of Lasers in Educational Institutions. The new standard applies the requirements of ANSI Z136.1; American National Standard for Safe Use of Lasers, to the unique environments associated with educational institutions. For more information call (800) 345-2737; <http://www.laserinstitute.org/>.

NIOSH Publishes Fact Sheet on Women in the Workforce

NIOSH has released a fact sheet focusing on women in the workplace. Currently, women comprise 46 percent of the 137 million workers in the United States, with their share of the labor force projected to reach 48 percent by 2008. According to the fact sheet, the following data concerning workplace injuries apply to female workers:

- Musculoskeletal disorders account for more than half (52 percent) of the injuries and illnesses suffered by female workers, as compared to 45 percent for male workers.
- In one survey 60 percent of employed women cited stress as their number one problem at work. Levels of stress-related illness are twice as high for women as for men.
- Three-quarters of women of reproductive age are in the workforce, and half of the children born in the United States are born to working mothers.
- Homicide is the leading cause of injury and death for women in the workplace.
- Women in jobs requiring personal protective equipment often are supplied with clothing designed for average-sized men, which may reduce the PPE's effectiveness.
- Workplace exposures to hazardous substances may play a role in the development of some of the 180,000 cases of breast cancer and 12,000 cases of cervical cancer diagnosed each year.

To receive a copy of the fact sheet and other documents relevant to the health and safety of women in the workplace, contact NIOSH at (800) 356-4674; fax (513) 533-8573.

ARMY ITEMS OF INTEREST - None

JUST THE FACTS

New Acting Director for NIOSH

Kathleen Rest is the new Acting Director for NIOSH, effective June 1. She replaces Larry Fine, who has served in that position since the departure of Linda Rosenstock.

Arsenic

The US EPA announced that it would revoke a recently published rule reducing the acceptable drinking water level for arsenic to from 50 parts per billion (ppb) to 10 ppb.

Chronic Disease Top Lost Work Time List

Chronic diseases in the working population, especially cancer, are the biggest contributors to missed work time and lost productivity, according to a study published in a recent issue of the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. Chronic disease in the workplace is estimated to account for more than 2.5 billion missed workdays per year in the U.S. Cancer had the greatest impact on missed work time. Two-thirds of respondents with cancer reported work loss or work cutback days in the past month, with an average of 16 such days.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

This document was prepared for the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine (USACHP) PM), Directorate of Occupational Health Sciences. The POC at the USACHPPM is Mrs. Sandra Monk; Program Manager; Industrial Hygiene Management Program; DSN: 584-2439; COM: 410. 436.2439; e-mail: Sandra.Monk@apg.amedd.army.mil.

This document summarizes information and regulatory actions that are relevant for Army Industrial Hygiene Program personnel. We distribute this summary in electronic form only. Please make it available to your staff if they do not have direct access to an electronic copy. We post a copy on the Army IH Program Home Page (<http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/Armyih>). If you would like to be added to the electronic mailing list or if your e-mail address changes, please contact Tammy Budkey, e-mail: tammy.budkey@apg.amedd.army.mil; or call her at DSN: 584-2439; COM: 410.436.2439; fax: 410.436.8795.

At a minimum; we review the following publications in preparing this summary: [AIHA Journal](#); the [Synergist](#); Today (ACGIH's Newsletter); OSHA Week; the [Federal Register](#); BNA OSHA Reporter; [Applied Occupational and Environmental Hygiene](#); The [Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine](#); The [Journal of Environmental Health](#); [Professional Safety](#); Safety and Health, [Occupational Hazards](#); [Occupational Health and Safety](#); and [Industrial Safety and Hygiene News](#). We also gather information from a

variety of sources on the Internet using the Army IH Program Home Page as our gateway. (<http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/Armyih/>).

If you have questions or comments; please contact Jim Evenden at jevenden@lmi.org; 410.638.2081/2086 (voice) or 2093 (fax).